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COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY

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Subject: NASA Directives and Charters Procedural Requirements

Responsible Office: Office of Internal Controls and Management Systems

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Appendix A. Definitions

Agency-level directive. A NASA directive with Agency-wide applicability; i.e., NASA Policy Directives (NPDs), NASA Procedural Requirements (NPRs), and NASA Interim Directives (NIDs).

Authority. The source from which a requirement is drawn; the responsible organization imposing the requirement.

Center-level directive. A NASA directive with Center-specific applicability; e.g., Center Policy Directives (CPDs); Center Procedural Requirements (CPRs); and Center Interim Directives (CIDs).

Center Interim Directive (CID). Documents an immediate, short-term statement of the Center's policies, requirements, and responsibilities for implementation. Center Policy Directive (CPD). Documents Center-specific policy requirements and responsibilities.

Center Procedural Requirements (CPR). Documents/establishes Center-specific procedural requirements and responsibilities to implement the policies and procedural requirements defined in related NPDs, NPRs, or CPDs.

Concurrence. A documented agreement.

Contextual information. Background information, such as history or rationale for a requirement, or other descriptive information or examples that help clarify the actual requirements statement.

Disposition of Comments. A documented response explaining how reviewers' comments will be applied to the draft directive.

Guidance. A statement of expectation that does not mandate compliance. NASA Directive. A NASA document that transmits information required by law, the President, the NASA Administrator, or other senior NASA official that applies to all NASA activities or to a single NASA Center on how they initiate, govern, or control actions. NASA directives include: NASA Policy Directives (NPD), NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR), NASA Interim Directives (NID), Center Policy Directives (CPD), Center Procedural Requirements (CPR), and Center Interim Directives (CID).

NASA Directives System. The tools and processes used to create and promulgate NASA Agency-level directives.

NASA Interim Directives (NID). Documents an immediate, short-term statement of the Agency's policies, requirements, and identifies responsibilities for implementation.

NASA Online Directives Information System (NODIS). A full-function, Web-based document management system (DMS) with a separate library for the search and retrieval of approved directives and related policy documents. The NODIS DMS is used for the creation, review, revision, concurrence, approval, publication, and maintenance of Agency-level directives, and the generation of associated reports. The NODIS Library provides for full text searching of Agency- and Center-level directives. It also provides links to other policy documents governing the Agency, including: NASA Technical Standards, Code of Federal Regulations, Executive Orders, Federal Register, OMB Circulars, Congressional Records, the U.S. Code, Congressional Bills, and the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications.

NASA Policy Directive (NPD). Documents Agency policy statements that describe what is required by NASA management to achieve NASA's vision, mission, and external mandates and who is responsible for carrying out those requirements. NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR). Documents Agency requirements to implement NASA's policy as delineated in an associated NPD.

Nonconcurrence. A documented disagreement.

Policy. Describes the philosophies, fundamental values, and general direction of the Agency or Center and are used to determine present and future decisions. Because established policies are general in nature, they may need more specific requirements established in procedural requirements for full implementation. Requirement. A statement of mandatory instruction that an employee or organization has to perform or a statement of form or function that a piece of equipment or system has to meet.

Responsible Office. The office that has responsibility for the development, maintenance, and verification of a directive.

Revalidation. The process for renewing a NASA directive when the directive is current and necessary and requires no changes or only minor administrative changes (e.g., updates to document citations, office or position titles, or references to other established policy or externally mandated instruction that may not be altered/edited).

Verification. The process of proving or demonstrating that requirements have been satisfactorily met.

Waiver. A written authorization to depart from a specific directive requirement.

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